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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

MINORU TAKEBE

Serial No: 09/284,935

Filed: May 3, 1999

For: BENEFICIAL MICROORGANISM
PROPAGATION-PROMOTING
MATERIAL AND A PROCESS FOR
PREPARING THE SAME

Art Unit: 1651

Examiner: V. Afremova

FAX RECEIVED

MAY 08 2002

GROUP 1600AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 7, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 (thrice amended) as follows:

- E1
1. (Four Times Amended) A beneficial microorganism propagation-promoting material which promotes propagation of a beneficial microorganism in a colon of a living being that helps to sustain the health of living beings, (said material comprising a substance that remains undigested up to the colon, said material being obtained by steps of:
- cooking solid form grains,
 - cooling the solid form grains to a temperature at which koji mold propagates,
 - inoculating koji mold on solid said form grains to create a koji preparation resultant,
 - adding water to said resultant to hydrolyze proteins and/or saccharides contained in said resultant,